

# Indiana State Sentinel.

WEEKLY EDITION.

INDIANAPOLIS, APRIL 22, 1847.

The following will hereafter be the permanent terms of the Weekly Indiana State Sentinel:

One copy, one year, \$2.00  
Three copies, one year, 5.00  
Five copies, one year, 8.00  
Ten copies, one year, 15.00

Legal Advertisements.

The undersigned will not publish legal notices in their respective papers without payment being made therefor in advance.

To Correspondents.

F. S. Sinks's Mills. Yours of 21st March has been received. It is very low, however, when authorized by such

W. A. P. New York. The "Duck" came to hand a day or two since in prime order. Please have all those "Spills" dis-

V. B. New York. The papers have been a second time mailed to your address, and the mark made. Hope they will arrive safe.

T. W. C. New York. Your "Card" came to hand this morning. It shall have as insertion in our next.

We hasten to lay before our readers, in another column, the letter from Mr. Morrison, U. S. A. to the Governor, which by some unaccountable delay was not received by him until last Sunday morning. The letter was written three days after the battle of Buena Vista, and contains as full and detailed an account of that sanguinary struggle as yet published. We have been fully prepared to find, as we now do find, that the misrepresentations in relation to the conduct of the Indiana Volunteers, contained as they were in anonymous communications, were without substantial foundation. We had hoped that no scribblers like that despicable tribe of political letter writers at Washington, and laboring for political objects, could be found in or about our army. But what has been the fact? The conduct of the gallant Butler, Stockton, Kearney, and others was maligned by letter writers, merely because they were Democrats. So of the Ohio troops, on another occasion, because they were led by officers who happened to be Democrats. On the contrary, the Democracy have always been ready to do full justice to officers of the army, for their military achievements, without even inquiring into their politics. The Whigs press, however, are certainly reminding their readers that such and such officers are Whigs. Out upon such bitter prejudice and party narrowness!

The natural emulation which exists among the different corps of troops called from different States of the confederacy, is only productive of praiseworthy results, when confined to its proper sphere of causing them to vie with each other in noble deeds of arms. But when, as we have been of late but too well convinced, it gives rise to unjust representations of the conduct of a portion of our citizen soldiers, for the purpose of giving to those of other States an undue share of the credit of a glorious victory which sheds lustre upon all, or whether it has arisen from a jealousy of a few in the regular service against volunteers, it is alike reprehensible.

The same objections, if we recollect aright, were made against General Jackson and the volunteers and militia under his command, in the last war with Great Britain. He had never been educated at West Point, and it was only by a rapid succession of brilliant victories, that he constrained the admiration of every branch of the service, and convinced the world that a high order of military talent has no necessary connection with an exclusively military education or profession, however desirable the latter may be in itself. We have seen that a Washington could have taught a Braddock, and that a Jackson did teach a Pakenham.

True magnanimity does justice to all concerned, and we are pleased to see that Mr. Morrison has done so in his letter. We are especially gratified to see that the Indiana volunteers who were in the action, opposed as they were to the first onset of the enemy, in the front of the struggle—fought like veterans, in this their first battle—in an exposed position—against greatly superior numbers of regular troops, and showing, that under all the circumstances, they have well redeemed the confidence of their fellow citizens.

OUR VOLUNTEERS.—The Public Ledger, one of the best and most impartial papers in the country, has the following statement, which fully corroborates all the accounts we have seen. A little time will set all this matter right; and those who whig papers out of the State, particularly the Louisville Journal and New Orleans Tropic, will have full leisure to look at the truth of the matter, and still continue to humbug their readers if they can. The Journal has already commenced carping, as it was reminded (at it had claimed all the Indiana volunteers as Whigs). What a memory a liar should have!

THE VOLUNTEERS.—It has been mentioned in the accounts which have been published of the great battle fought by Gen. Taylor on the 21st of February, that the Indiana volunteers did not behave with the firmness and gallantry which distinguished the other divisions of the army engaged in that sanguinary contest. In the interesting account of the battle which we published yesterday, the writer alluded in the most disparaging terms (which we omitted) of the conduct of this brigade, and also of the Arkansas troops. There was evidently much exaggeration in the statement, for the same letter speaks in another place, of "hundreds, some say thousands, of volunteers," taking refuge in ranches, and thus leaving the battle to be fought by the mere handful left on the field—a statement which shows improbability upon the face of it, for Taylor had only 4500 men at most to fight the 20,000 of Santa Anna, and therefore could not spare thousands. The true statement is probably that made by Lieut. Crittenden—that the Indiana troops were at one time thrown into confusion, and retreated in great precipitation and disorder, but that the main body of them were afterwards rallied, and bravely met the enemy. The heavy loss they sustained proves the fact. That some of them did not return to the field is evident from Gen. Taylor's address to the troops after the battle.

The Illinois, Mississippi and Kentucky regiments are spoken of in the highest terms of praise. The Illinois is said to be a very superior body of men. General Wool frequently remarked in the course of the march from San Antonio to Parras, that they were the finest body of men he had ever seen.

The quantity of ship-building going on in Baltimore at the present time is unprecedented. Within a brief period there has been launched, 3 brigs and 5 schooners, and there is now building, 5 ships, 9 bargues, 9 brigs, and 11 schooners, making in all 42 vessels of all classes, of 10,570 tons burden. There are also said to be a number of contracts on hand, waiting for keel down.

Let the Journal "dig away" at the tariff, or we shall all be "utterly ruined!"

## Letter from Major Morrison.

BUENA VISTA, (6 miles south of Saltillo, Mexico,) February 23, 1847.

DEAR SIR:—After one of the most desperate and sanguinary battles, of this or any other age, I find myself sufficiently composed to undertake to give you a sketch of its details.

On or about the 3d or 4th of Feb., Gen. Taylor with all his forces, amounting to about 4,500 fighting men, advanced from Saltillo, on the San Luis Potosi road, to a small Hacienda, called Agua Nueva. (New Water.) where he encamped and remained until Sunday, the 21st February, on which day, at 12 o'clock, he commenced a retrograde movement towards Saltillo, and retreated 14 miles to Buena Vista, (pronounced "Wayna Vista.") He there encamped at a pass between the mountains where the only road is between an abrupt fall, extending to the mountains on the south, and a row of ravines on the north, extending across the valley to the mountains on the same side. Here he threw up a short stone embankment so as to reduce the pass to a mere wagon road way. On Monday morning at about seven o'clock, our pickets announced the approach of the Mexican army, commanded by Santa Anna in person, and accompanied by Gen. Ampudia, consisting of 20,000 or 21,000 men, well armed and equipped with powder, shot, and artillery, from 3 to 20 pounders. They drew up and formed for battle at a distance some two or three miles from our lines, and Gen. Santa Anna sent forward a flag of truce demanding a surrender of our army, promising to treat us with becoming clemency, stating his numbers to amount to 20,000 men, and giving one hour for consideration and answer. To this I promptly returned for answer, that he cared not for the size of his army, as he, Taylor, had an army that was able to whip it; but if Santa Anna saw fit to surrender to him, he would be treated in a proper manner. These ceremonies being over, at 10 minutes before 4 o'clock, P. M., the Mexican batteries opened the conflict by a discharge of bombs, which was promptly returned by our light artillery. After the first exchange of shot, the Mexicans came on to advance, and after a short time gained an important position on the mountain side, on the south of the pass. The U. S. army was posted in detached portions in such manner as best to subserve the intentions of our Generals. Four rifle companies of the Indiana brigade, under the command of Major Gorman, were ordered to intercept the progress of the Mexicans, who were endeavoring to ascend the mountain ranges to pass our left flank. These companies very actively ascended the mountain, and lay behind a ridge. The Mexicans opened a very brisk and continued fire upon them, which lasted until dark. The riflemen, commanded by Capt. Walker, Sloss, Dunn, and Osborn, lay close, and two of the companies only were enabled to shoot when the enemy advanced to the brow of the ridge, which they did with very considerable numbers. The Mexicans, who, as already stated, first led the attack in the mountains, is slightly wounded. Every officer of the Indiana Brigade sustained himself admirably, and although some had, from the necessity of the case, more conspicuous positions than others, none failed to perform his part. The soldiers deserve the highest commendation, for no man could be more of a man in the field, and each one fought as though the great issue depended upon his individual efforts. If in the pressure of the fight some were forced to recede, let it be remembered, that on similar occasions, the most renowned legions have been overpowered and forced to retire from their position. This one great battle has established for the young State of Indiana, a reputation for patriotic devotion, chivalrous conduct and daring bravery which will endure until the conclusion of time, and will be a source of glory to the State as sweet incentive to her latest generations. But she mourns the loss of many a noble spirit, and her joy will be tempered with tears of mourning, and the bright smile of her countenance, shaded with the crape and the pall. This memorable battle is the more glorious, as it was commenced on the 22d of February, the birth-day of the illustrious Washington.

I here send you some of the names of the brave men who have fallen in this glorious battle, and official statement will immediately be made by Gen. Taylor to Washington, which will be authentic and accurate, containing every name.

The total loss of the Indiana Brigade is as follows: Second Regiment—Killed 32, wounded 71, missing 4—total 107.

Third Regiment—Killed 9, wounded 57—total 66.

In the loss of the enemy is estimated at from 4 to 6000, and some estimate it at near 7000 men. Doubtless a large item of this amount is desertion. The immense masses of killed and wounded on the field besides those taken away, is truly astonishing, and presented a shocking picture of blood and carnage.

[Here follows a list of the killed and wounded in the 2d and 3d Indiana regiments, which we omit, having published it before.]

The men were carefully collected and buried with the honors of war.

I mention that Gen. Marshall of Kentucky has just reinforced us with two large 12 pounders, a 12 pounder and a howitzer, and about 150 men. He arrived here on the morning of the 24th from Monterey. Had we had the large guns, they would have been of great service on the 23d, as our largest cannon were only six pounders, flying and light artillery.

Capt. Kinder was heroically murdered and robbed (after he was wounded and placed in a wagon) by the Mexican lancers. They took from his person \$945 in gold. They hanged many of our men who first fell wounded.

We are still encamped upon the battle field, where we may stay until another fight, or until the enemy leaves us. Santa Anna still threatens us; but we fear him but little, being determined to fight to the death rather than to retreat. I may write you again soon. You may rely upon the statement here given.

Your most ob't serv't.

A. F. MORRISON, Major U. S. A.

His Excellency, Gov. WHITCOMB.

SERIOUS ACCIDENTS.—On Monday, as our fellow citizen, John E. Ramsey, was returning with his family from Danville, when within a mile from town, his horse took fright, ran away and capsize the carriage. Mr. R. became entangled, and was severely injured in his head and breast, though probably not fatally, as was at first supposed. His lady was also considerably bruised; but his children escaped serious injuries.

On the same day, Charles Nuttmeier, in attempting to load a heavy saw log, was severely, if not fatally injured, by the clock going away. His head was shockingly bruised, one hand nearly severed, and his hip badly broken. He lies in a very critical state.

EXPORTS.—The New York correspondent of the Washington Union says that the exports from the port of New York for the month of March show very favorably the increase of domestic produce having been immense. The coming months bid fair to give equally good results.

Exports for March, 1846 and 1847, from the port of New York.

Domestic merchandise, \$1,463,529 \$2,738,574  
Foreign do. free, 66,212 51,355  
Foreign do. dutiable, 122,076 83,088  
Specie, 257,951 243,585

Total, \$1,909,595 \$4,146,506  
Increase, \$2,237,208

The increase in "domestic merchandise" (most of agricultural produce) is over \$2,200,000, or nearly 275 per cent.—a state of things most "ruinous" to the farmer.

Why don't the Journal keep "blazing away" against the tariff?

ANOTHER YANKEE INVENTION.—A company has lately procured a charter under the style of the "New England Health Insurance Company." It is organized by and is under the control of men of wealth and integrity, with a capital of \$200,000.

Any male person, between the ages of fifteen and seventy, in good health, by paying five dollars a year to this company, may secure to himself four dollars a week, in case of sickness or inability to attend to his ordinary occupation.

The above is nothing but "Odd Fellowship," disguised by its social features.

Some dozen columns of interesting matter are undoubtedly crowded out of this paper.

the number of the cavalry, made a descent upon the cavalry, and were met by a well directed fire; but the Arkansas men were too few to withstand the shock, and as they fired, retreated at full speed past the place where we had collected our scattered forces. As they passed, hotly pursued by the Lancers, our boys in the pen gave the Lancers a most killing volley, which threw them into confusion, killed about 10 of them, wounding many others, which enabled our cavalry to load again; and thus were the Lancers defeated in their charges and compelled to pass to the mountains for safety, instead of being permitted to attack our wagon train and then fall back upon our rear. After this charge and repulse, the battle still raged from every point with tremendous fury, until the sun began to sink, and was near to the mountain's top, when we saw our gallant forces driving the Mexicans into a run. They again rallied, but were again put to flight, and before the shades of evening set in, their fire had ceased, and they drew back their forces on the road on which they had advanced. At about twelve o'clock at night, they silently commenced a general retreat, and retired to Agua Nueva, where they halted for the night. Here they remained during the 24th and 25th, and on the night of the 25th, had retreated still further in the direction of San Luis. Gen. Taylor sent an escort to propose terms of exchange of prisoners, but Santa Anna was very cross, being disinclined. On yesterday the Mexicans sent for the exchange, and it was made, and I understand stipulations were entered into, for the release of Cassius M. Clay and his party.

Thus has closed one of the most desperate, great and glorious battles of our country in its modern history; and a victory to American arms never achieved as resplendent as any that ever gilded her pages. Gen. Taylor, with his usual equanimity and coolness, commanded the forces as commander in chief, and his presence was a host in itself, inspiring confidence in every breast that all that could be done would be done, and that defeat would never disgrace us, however great the disparity of numbers. Gen. Wool was next in command, and most diligently and valiantly attended to every department of the engagement. He is a brave and competent officer, and merits the gratitude of his countrymen for his services on this great occasion. Next came Gen. Joseph Lane, of the Indiana Brigade. He was on the field from the onset to the close of the action, and never did any man more heroically devote himself to his duty. The thickest of the fight had no terrors for him, and to an observer it would seem that he was heaven defended, for he was continually passing in all directions amidst a shower of bullets. He is however severely wounded through the right arm, the ball passing about midway between his shoulder and elbow, through the centre of the arm, yet not breaking the bone. Cols. Bowles, Lane, Hadden, and McCoy were most gallantly employed, as were Major Gorman and Cravens. Maj. Gorman, who, as already stated, first led the attack in the mountains, is slightly wounded. Every officer of the Indiana Brigade sustained himself admirably, and although some had, from the necessity of the case, more conspicuous positions than others, none failed to perform his part. The soldiers deserve the highest commendation, for no man could be more of a man in the field, and each one fought as though the great issue depended upon his individual efforts. If in the pressure of the fight some were forced to recede, let it be remembered, that on similar occasions, the most renowned legions have been overpowered and forced to retire from their position. This one great battle has established for the young State of Indiana, a reputation for patriotic devotion, chivalrous conduct and daring bravery which will endure until the conclusion of time, and will be a source of glory to the State as sweet incentive to her latest generations. But she mourns the loss of many a noble spirit, and her joy will be tempered with tears of mourning, and the bright smile of her countenance, shaded with the crape and the pall. This memorable battle is the more glorious, as it was commenced on the 22d of February, the birth-day of the illustrious Washington.

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## OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

From our Army at Vera Cruz.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Camp Washington, before Vera Cruz, March 23, 1847.

SIR:—Yesterday, seven of our 10-inch mortars, being in battery, and the labors for planting the remainder of our heavy metal being in progress, I addressed, at two o'clock, p. m., a summons to the Governor of Vera Cruz, and within the two hours limited by the bearer of the flag, received the Governor's answer. Copies of the papers, marked, respectively, A and B, are herewith enclosed.

It will be perceived that the Governor, who, it turns out, is the commander of both places, chose, against the plain terms of the summons, to suppose me to have demanded the surrender of the castle and the city, when, in fact, from the non-arrival of our heavy metal—principally mortars—I was in no condition to threaten the former.

On the return of the flag, with that reply, I at once ordered the seven mortars, in battery, to open upon the city. In a short time the smaller vessels of Commodore Perry's squadron—two steamers and five schooners—according to previous arrangement with him, approached the city within a mile and an eighth, being partially covered from the castle—an essential condition to their safety—they also opened a brisk fire upon the city. This has been continued, uninterruptedly, by the mortars, and only with a few intermissions, by the vessels, up to nine o'clock this morning, when the commodore, very properly called them off from a position too dangerously exposed.

Our three remaining mortars are now (12 o'clock, m.) in battery, and the whole ten in activity. Tomorrow, early, if the city should continue obstinate, batteries Nos. 4 and 5 will be ready to add their fire: No. 4, consisting of four 24 pounders and two 8-inch Paixhans; and No. 5 (naval battery) of three 32-pounders and 8-inch Paixhans—the guns, officers, and crew, being supplied with ammunition by the navy being unremittently their zealous co-operation, in every mode and form.

So far, we know that our fire upon the city has been highly effective—particularly from the batteries of 10-inch mortars, planted at about 800 yards from the city. Including the preparation and defence of the batteries, from the beginning—now many days—of the siege, the heavy guns, and the crews, and the navy being unremittently their zealous co-operation, in every mode and form.

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whether each place has its own independent commander; but the undersigned, moved by the consideration of the safety of the city, and by the stipulation that, if the city should be capitulated, be garrisoned by a part of his troops, no missile shall be fired from within the city, or from its bastions or walls, upon the castle, unless the castle should previously fire upon the city.

The undersigned has the honor to tender to his distinguished opponent, his excellency the governor and commander-in-chief of Vera Cruz, the assurance of the high respect and consideration of the undersigned.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

B [Translation.]

The undersigned, commanding general of the free and sovereign State of Vera Cruz, has informed himself of the contents of the note which Major General Scott, general-in-chief of the forces of the United States, has addressed to him under the date of to-day, demanding